

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 SR-02 ORM-03 NEA-10 DRC-01 /147 W

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P 051535Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 98

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS VIENNA 8291

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PFOR, UA

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO AUSTRIAN DECISION ON SCHOENAU

1. COVERAGE OF THE NEWS IN THE WAKE OF SCHOENAU DECISION HAS SOMEWHAT DIMINISHED, BUT IS STILL HEAVY. INDEPENDENT MASS-CIRCULATION TABLOID KORNEN-ZEITUNG TOP-PLAYS ALLEGED AUSTRIAN EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH AN AIRLIFT MOSCOW-VIENNA-TEL AVIV TO TRANSPORT MIGRANT SOVIET JEWS QUICKLY TO ISRAEL. THE PAPER QUOTES INTERIOR MINISTER OTTO ROESCH AS CONTENDING THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT WOULD MAKE SCHOENAU TRANSIT CAMP SUPERFLUOUS. ACCORDING TO "INFORMED CIRCLES IN VIENNA" AS QUOTED BY KRONEN-ZEITUNG, AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW IS ALREADY IN TOUCH WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, AND GOA IS RATHER HOPEFUL CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT IN SOME INDIVIDUAL CASES THE SOVIETS HAD PERMITTED EMIGRATING JEWS TO FLY TO VIENNA BY AEROFLOT AND THEN PROCEED BY EL AL TO TEL AVIV.

2. INDEPENDENT KURIER PLAYS UP A BEIRUT STATEMENT OF THE TERRORIST GROUP "EAGLES OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION" THREATENING USSR WITH TERRORIST ACTIONS UNLESS THEY STOP THE EXODUS TO ISRAEL.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER KIRCHSCHLAEGER'S STATEMENT BEFORE UNCLASSIFIED

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UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS COVERED MOST EXTENSIVELY BY SOCIALIST ARBEITER-ZEITUNG. SAME PAPER ALSO REPORTS AT LENGTH ON YESTERDAY'S VIENNA MEETING OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE WHICH FULLY SUPPORTED KREISKY'S

STAND. PEOPLE'S PARTY VOLKSBLATT CLAIMS THAT AN INTER-PARTY "PUTSCH AGAINST KREISKY WAS AVERTED IN THE ELEVENTH HOUR" AND THAT THE CHANCELLOR FOUND IT VERY HARD TO SILENCE THE OPPOSITION LED BY ATUF (AUSTRIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION) PRESIDENT ANTON BENYA AND VIENNA SPOE CHAIRMAN OTTO PROBST. YESTERDAY (OCTOBER 4) GRAZ CATHOLIC KLEINE ZEITUNG ASSERTED THAT THE PARTY'S SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, KARL CZERNETZ, IS KREISKY'S SHARPEST CRITIC IN THIS ISSUE AND APPARENTLY STILL OF THE OPINION THAT THE CHANCELLOR OUGHT TO REVOKE HIS DECISION.

4. THREE VIENNA PAPERS, DIE PRESSE, KURIER, AND COMMUNIST VOLKSSTIMME, BRIEFLY MENTIONED AMBASSADOR HUMES' DEPARTURE FOR THE UNITED STATES. WHILE KURIER AND VOLKSSTIMME SAY THAT HE HAS LEFT FOR CONSULTATION ABOUT SCHOENAU AFFAIR, DIE PRESSE QUOTES AN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN AS HAVING EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS A PRIVATE VISIT WHICH HAD BEEN PLANNED LONG AGO.

5. KURIER FRONTPAGES FOREIGN MINISTER KIRCHSCHLAEGER'S COMPLAINT AT A NEW YORK PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE TWO ARAB TERRORISTS WHO LATER STAGED THE COUP WERE FOR TEN DAYS IN BRATISLAVA WITHOUT THE CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES INFORMING AUSTRIA ABOUT POSSIBLE SCHEMES.

6. COMMUNIST VOLKSSTIMME REPORTS ON AN INTERVIEW IT HAD WITH INTERIOR MINISTER ROESCH WHO REFUSED TO SET A DATE FOR CLOSING DOWN THE SCHOENAU CAMP.

7. SEVERAL PAPERS CONTINUE TO EDITORIALIZE. INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE CALLS FOR RESIGNATION OF DEFENSE MINISTER KARL LUETGENDORF WHO ASSERTED MONDAY NIGHT AT A RECEPTION AT THE COMMUNIST CHINESE EMBASSY THAT ALL FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS CRITICIZING AUSTRIA ARE JEWISH-CONTROLLED. THE PAPER THEN IMAGINES A NEW EMERGENCY: "WHAT IF JEWISH GROUPS TAKE HOSTAGES (IN AUSTRIA) AND UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFRONT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITH DEMANDS? WILL IT BE POSSIBLE TO REFUSE TO THEM WHAT WAS GRANTED TO OTHERS? WILL THE JEWISH ABMASSADOR THERUPON BE RECEIVED FOR A HANDSHAKE? AND WHAT IF THE ARABS STRIKE AGAIN? OUR COUNTRY IS INDEED IN A MUCH WORSE PREDICAMENT THAT (THE GOVERNMENT) ADMITS."

8. KRONEN-ZEITUNG CENSURES THE UNITED NATIONS FOR REFUSING TO PLACE THE SCHOENAU CAMP UNDER ITS JURISDICTION: "SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HAVE QUICKLY - MUCH TOO QUICKLY-- ARRIVED AT CONCLUSION THAT JEWISH EMIGRANTS FROM USSR ARE NOT 'REFUGEES.'... THE UNITED NATIONS' SHORT-SIGHTED

ATTITUDE AGAIN DEMONSTRATES WHAT IS BASICALLY WRONG WITH THIS COMMUNITY OF NATIONS: IT WAITS UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE. SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM HAD TERMED IT HIS MAIN TASK TO REMEDY THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS."

9. SOCIALIST ARBEITER-ZEITUNG COMPLAINS ABOUT RESURGENCE OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN AUSTRIA IN WAKE OF JEWISH CRITICISIM. THE PAPER ADDS: "THE NEAR FUTURE WILL SHOW TO WHAT EXTENT THE AUSTRIANS HAVE CLEANSSED THEMSELVES OF THE SINS OF THE PAST."

10. CHIEF EDITOR HUBERT FEICHTLBAUER WRITES SARCASTICALLY IN KURIER THAT THOUGH KREISKY MAY SUCCEED IN AVERTING AUSTRIA'S BECOMING A SECONDARY THEATER OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR, "WE ARE NOW POLITICALLY A MAIN THEATER OF WAR." CONTRASTING KREISKY'S KIND OF DIPLOMACY WITH TEN YEARS OF PATIENT DIPLOMACY BEFORE AUSTRIA WAS GIVEN THE STATE TREATY, THE PAPER SAYS: "WE KNOW NOW THAT WE SHOULD HAVE BANGED ON THE TABLE (AT THAT TIME). THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT WOULD THEN HAVE IMploRED US AS HE DOES NOW, AND THE SOVIET PREMIER WOULD HAVE GNASHED HIS TEETH LEAVING THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL TALK WITH THE CHANCELLOR. INSTEAD OF STAGING JUST A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE CHANCELLOR WOULD HAE SUMMONED THE SIGNATORY POWERS TO SIGN THE STATE TREATY."

11. PEOPLE'S PARTY VOLKSBLATT SEES DISAGREEMENT IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SOCIALIST PARTY AND "REMARKABLE RESERVE ON THE PART OF THE REALLY BIG AND INFLUENTIAL GROUPS WITHIN THE SPOE."

12. VIENNA CATHOLIC WEEKLY DIE FURCHE (PREDATED OCTOBER 6) COMMENTED: "CONSIDERING SUCCESS OF ARAB TERROR, IT IS EASY TO FIGURE OUT THE ONLY TWO POSSIBLE VARIATIONS. ONE, SCHOENAU IS CLOSED, BUT THE TRANSIT CONTINUES. SOVIET JEWS WILL BE ACCOMMODATED IN VIENNA HOTELS AND APARTMENTS. PALESTINIANS WILL DO THEIR UTMOST TO PREVENT THIS EMIGRATION. ALL SORTS OF TERRORIST ATTACKS ARE LIKELY, THE MORE SO SINCE THE PALESTINIANS REGARD THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT AS SUSCEPTIBLE TO EXTORTION. TWO, AUSTRIA WARDS OFF TERROR BY PROHIBITING THE TRANSIT OF SOVIET JEWS. THE ARABS HAVE REACHED THEIR GOAL, AND AUSTRIA HAS LOST FOR GOOD ITS PRESITGE IN THE WORLD AS A NATION GRANTING ASYLUM."

13. INDEPENDENT SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN MAINTAINS THAT SCHOENAU IS A "NEUTRALITY PROBLEM": "THE NEUTRALITY ACT SAYS CLEARLY THAT AUSTRIA AS A NEUTRAL COUNTRY MUST NOT MILITARILY SUPPORT ANY BELLIGERENT STATE, NOT EVEN

INDIRECTLY, YET NO ONE DARED TO SAY THAT EXISTENCE OF
CAMP NOT FULLY IN LINE WITH OUR NEUTRALITY. THE
AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT SURELY KNEW FOR YEARS THAT JEWISH
IMMIGRANTS FROM EASTERN EUROPE MUST DO MILITARY SERVICE
IN ISRAEL AND CAN BE USED FOR COMBAT AGAINST ARAB COUNTRIES."
MOWINCKEL

UNCLASSIFIED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENNA08291
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731067/abqcelmr.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by phillir0>; APPROVED <24-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION TO AUSTRIAN DECISION ON SCHOENAU
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PFOR, AU
To: STATE INFO USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005